

REMARKS

The Examiner indicated claims 44 and 45 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowed subject matter.

The Examiner objected to claims 41 and 43 as being dependent upon an allegedly rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants have amended claim 41 to include all the limitations of claim 1 and intervening claim 40. Applicants believe that claim 41, as amended is in condition for allowance. Since claims 4, 7-15, 31-33, 38, 42 and 43 depend from claim 41, Applicants believe claims 4, 7-15, 31-33, 38, 42 and 43 are likewise in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 7 and 31-40 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Noble et al. (US 6,450,116). Applicants contend that the Examiners rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 7 and 31-40 and 42 is moot in light of Applicants canceling of claims 1, 6, 34-37, 39 and 40 and amendment of claims 4, 7-15, 31-33, 38 and 40 42.

The Examiner rejected claims 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Noble as applied to the claims above. Applicants contend that the Examiners rejection of claims 8-15 is moot in light of Applicants canceling of amendment of claims 4, 7-15, 8-15 and 41.

Applicants have amended claims 4, 7-15, 31-33, 38, 41-43. and cancelled claims 1, 6, 16-30, 34-37, 39 and 40. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the present application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0456 (IBM).

Respectfully submitted,
FOR:
Burnham et al.

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